

## Letter to Board of Commissioners

I am writing about two issues. I want you to support the entire budget for the Health Department and I want you to refuse to support the addition of two new departments.

First, our Benzie Leelanau District Health Department has done and is doing a wonderful job of keeping the citizens safe and healthy especially during these last 19 months fighting the pandemic. To their credit we have the highest rate of vaccination in our state. They have made vaccinations easy and convenient. As cases of Covid have gone up this fall due to the Delta variant, the health department has worked for the common good of us all by keeping children masked so as to keep them safe and not spread the virus. We can thank them for keeping our number of infections relatively low. These are just a few of their accomplishments having to do with the pandemic. They work on many other areas to keep us all healthy. Now is not the time to reduce their budget request. Now is the time to support them for the sake of our collective health in this county.

Secondly, now is the time to step back and do the required research and justify the need for any new departments. Two new departments have been suggested without any research or justification for needing them. I have not seen any written rationale for creating these departments. I have never served on a board where research, justification, and rationale were not required before any suggestion of enlarging or changing a department was made. Please table this motion and do the necessary work and write the normally required reports before even considering budgeting for these departments and thus raising our taxes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sara Boys

Elmwood Township